

SPAIN HEARD FROM YESTERDAY BUT THE NATURE OF HER REPLY IS KEPT A PROFOUND SECRET.

War Preparations and Operations Not in the Least Checked.

Manila Reinforcements are Making what Speed they Can in Getting Away on War Issues.

Either a Counter-Proposition or Further Detailed Information Requested. Authorities Non-Committal but do not seem to be Very Much Discouraged.

Troops Rushed to Porto Rico as if Peace Were Not Thought of.

Washington, Aug. 3.—After a conference on the peace question, lasting for just an hour, this afternoon, between the president and M. Cambon, the French ambassador, the latter acting as the representative of Spain, Secretary Day emerged from the White House and announced that today's conference was inconclusive, wherefore the parties to it had agreed to say nothing to the public as to what had occurred. The secretary did not appear to be discouraged as he made this statement, though he admitted that no time had been set for another conference.

From this it is gathered that the long-expected answer of the Spanish government to the president's note, on being received had turned out to be just as it was expected, either a counter-proposition or a request for a fuller statement in detail upon some of the heads of the president's note.

Up to the middle of the afternoon it was stated by all parties concerned that the Spanish answer had not been received; that the only formal note that had come to hand was one from the Madrid cabinet to M. Cambon, asking for information upon some points that were not clear to the Spanish minister. However, just after 3 o'clock the secretary of the French embassy, M. Thiebalt, called at the state department and arranged with Secretary Day for a meeting between the president and ambassador as soon as possible. The meeting was set for 3:45 o'clock, and Secretary Day was at the White House in season, but was obliged to wait about ten minutes for the French ambassador.

Already stated, after conferring for an hour the parties separated, having been unable to reach a conclusion as to the acceptance by Spain of the peace conditions laid down by the president, and binding themselves to the observance of the strictest secrecy as to the proceedings until further progress had been made. Thus it is practically assured in advance that any attempt to state what occurred at today's meeting at the White House would be nothing more than pure guess-work.

Meantime, in consonance with the declared purpose of the president at the beginning of the overtures, this conference is not operating to restrain military operations in any degree. Orders went out today for a conference of leaders of the regiments to accompany General Wade to Porto Rico, and within twenty-four hours some of the troops of this expedition will be boarding the transports at Newport News. It is felt that even should an armistice be declared before these troops see active service at the front, it will be beneficial for them to make the trip, for otherwise there is danger of the morale of the troops being destroyed through their craving to get away from the big concentration camps and at least see the shores of Cuba and Porto Rico.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Profiting by its last experience, General Wade's expedition is going to be the most complete in details of any that has yet left our shores, and the soldiers will be protected in their health and comfort to the utmost degree. Secretary Alger has himself conducted an inquiry into the conditions that led up to the fearful experience of the wounded soldiers who returned to the United States on the Concho, and he has taken the necessary steps to prevent a repetition of the bad management exhibited in that case; thus there may be some delay in getting the troops away with General Wade in view of the determination to have everything ship-shape before the men are on board, and as the transportation department was taken somewhat by surprise by the suddenly announced determination of the secretary war to start this expedition, some days must elapse before the necessary transports can be gathered at the ports of transportation.

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON CONCHO AND SENECA

Washington, Aug. 3.—Colonel Charles H. Bell, of the inspector general's office has returned to Washington from New York, where he went at the direction of Secretary Alger to make an examination to fix the responsibility of the official who sent the transport Concho to New York from Santiago in an unfit condition for carrying the sick and wounded.

After Colonel Bell had reported to the war department Secretary Alger made the following statement concerning the Concho, as well as the Seneca, which reached New York about two weeks ago. "Concerning the unfortunate occurrences on the ships Concho and Seneca, that brought home sick and wounded from Santiago, the secretary of war gives the following statement after a careful investigation:

"At the time they left Santiago, the general desire of the command was to come home as soon as possible. The Concho was a home-coming vessel, and the Seneca was a home-coming vessel. The conditions on that coast, where our ships had no shelter and where there was always a high surf, made the landing of troops, supplies, ammunition, artillery and medical stores very difficult, and there is no doubt much inconvenience and suffering was thereby caused that was unavoidable. The lights that went with General Shafter's fleet were lost on the way. Two sets of lights were subsequently sent, which were also lost, and it was impossible to get supplies ashore except with the boats from the ships and those supplied by the navy.

"Later on a lighter was furnished by the navy, which was the only one there for many days. On account of the great number of sick and wounded, which was in excess of what had been anticipated, there was no doubt that the suffering, especially among the sick at Santiago, was very great. The captains of the Seneca and the Concho did not report to General Shafter

not to Quartermaster Humphrey that they needed water. Had they done so, of course it would have been provided. Then also a large number of civilians rushed aboard to get away, and they occupied many staterooms that should have been given over to the soldiers. No recurrence of such conditions will be possible hereafter, and no one regrets more than the secretary of war that anything of the kind should have happened. The general commanding the army, the surgeon-general and the quartermaster and commissary departments have done the best they could, but unforeseen circumstances, named above, prevented the conveniences being provided that otherwise would have been furnished."

Secretary Alger, who is determined that no further trouble of the kind shall occur if it is in his power to prevent it, has sent the following telegram to General Shafter at Santiago:

"Whenever it becomes necessary to use transports for sick or wounded purposes, it should be made the duty of some experienced and capable medical officer to see that only such transports as are in good sanitary condition and are best suited for the purpose are selected; that the water supply on board is ample in quantity and wholesome in quality; that sufficient supplies of food, medicine, dressings, hospital stores, including delicacies where possible to obtain them, etc., are placed on board; that a sufficient number of experienced medical officers and nurses accompany the sick and wounded on the voyage; that there is no overcrowding of the vessel but that there are suitable accommodations for all; that the departure of these ships be telegraphed to the adjacent general land the surgeon-general."

A similar dispatch was sent to the commanding general of the army at Porto Rico and at Manila.

GENERAL KENT REPORTS ON THE BATTLE OF SANTIAGO

(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.) Headquarters of the First Division of the Third Army Corps, Near Santiago de Cuba, July 22.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Major General Shafter has authorized the publication of the official report of Brigadier General Kent of the battle of July 1, 2 and 3. A certified copy of the report is now furnished to the Associated Press by Major A. Sharpe, assistant adjutant general, First division, Third army corps. In this report which is dated July 7, General Kent, after detailing the movements which brought on the battle of July 1, gives the first official statement of the battle of July 1, a detailed statement concerning certain incidents of that engagement.

The commander of the Fifth corps had been directed by General Kent to make a green hill in the distance the objective point of his left and to keep the right of his division on the main road leading to Santiago.

The advance was begun after the enemy's artillery had opened in reply to Grimes' battery. Instructions had been given to allow the cavalry the right of way, but they moved very slowly, the report says, causing a delay of fully forty minutes in the general advance.

During the advance, General Kent, the division suffered heavy losses, caused by the balloon near by attracting the enemy's fire and disclosing the position of the division.

Describing the fighting in the vicinity of the main ford of the San Juan river, the report says:

"The enemy's infantry fire, steadily increasing in intensity, now came from all directions, not only from the front and the dense tropical thickets on our flank, but from sharpshooters thickly posted in trees in our rear, and from sharpshooters apparently aimed at the balloon. Lieutenant Colonel Derby, of Shafter's staff, met me about this time and informed me that a trail or narrow way had been discovered from the balloon a short distance back leading to the left of a ford lower down the stream. I hastened to the ford made by this road, and soon after the Seventy-first New York regiment, of Hawkins' brigade, came up. I turned them into the by-path indicated by Lieutenant Colonel Derby leading to the lower ford, sending word to General Hawkins of this movement. This would have

speedily delivered them in their proper place on the left of their brigade, but under the galling fire of the enemy the leading battalion of this regiment was thrown into confusion and recoiled in disorder on the troops in the rear.

"At this critical moment the officers of my staff practically formed a cordon behind the panic-stricken men and urged them to again go forward. I finally ordered them to lie down in the thickets and clear the way for others of their own regiment who were coming up behind. This many of them did, and the second and third battalions came forward in better order and moved along the road towards the ford. One of my staff officers ran back, waving his hat to hurry forward the third brigade, who, upon approaching the ford, found the way blocked by men of the Seventy-first New York. There were other men of this regiment crouching in the bushes, many of whom were encouraged by the advance of the approaching column to arise and go forward. As already stated, I had received orders some time before to keep in rear of the cavalry division. Their advance was much delayed, resulting in frequent halts, presumably to drop their blankets, and due to the natural delay in forming a stream. These delays under such a hot fire grew exceedingly irksome, and I therefore pushed the head of my division as quickly as I could toward the river in column of files of two parallel in the narrow way by the cavalry. This quickened the following and enabled me to get into position as speedily as possible for the attack. Owing to the congested condition of the road the progress of the narrow column was, however, painfully slow.

"I again sent a staff officer at a gallop to urge forward the troops in the rear. The head of Wyckoff's brigade reached the ford at 12:20 p. m., and hurried on the left, stepping over the prostrate forms of men of the Seventy-first. This heroic brigade, consisting of the Thirtieth, Ninth and Twenty-fourth United States infantry, speedily crossed the stream and were quickly deployed to the left of the lower ford. While personally superintending this movement Colonel Wyckoff was killed. The command of the brigade then devolved upon Lieutenant Colonel Worth, Thirtieth infantry, who immediately fell severely wounded, and then upon Lieutenant

Colonel Leeum. Twenty-fourth infantry, who, five minutes later, also fell under the withering fire of the enemy. The command of the brigade then devolved upon Lieutenant Colonel E. P. Bowers, Ninth infantry. Meanwhile I had again sent a staff officer to hurry forward the second brigade, which was bringing up the rear. The Tenth and Second infantry soon arriving at the ford, were deflected to the left to follow the third brigade, while the Twenty-first was directed along the main road to support Hawkins.

"Crossing the lower ford a few minutes later, the Tenth and Second moved forward in column in good order toward the green knoll already referred to as my objective on the left. Approaching the knoll the regiments deployed, passed over the knoll and ascended to the high ridge beyond, driving the enemy back in the direction of his trenches. I observed this movement from the fort on San Juan hill. Colonel E. P. Pearson, Tenth infantry, commanding the second brigade, and the officers and troops under his command, deserve great credit for the soldierly manner in which this movement was executed. I earnestly recommend Colonel Pearson for promotion. Prior to this advance of the second brigade the third, connecting with Hawkins' gallant troops on the right, had moved on toward Fort San Juan, sweeping through a zone of the most destructive fire, scaling a steep and difficult hill and assisting in capturing the enemy's strong position, Fort San Juan, at 1:30 p. m. This crest was about 125 feet above the general level and was defended by deep trenches and a loop-holed brick fort, surrounded by barbed wire entanglements. The greatest credit is due to the officers of my command, whether company, battalion, regimental or brigade commander, who so admirably directed the formation of their respective troops, unavoidably intermixed, and made the desperate rush for the distant and strongly defended crest."

General Kent praises the members of his staff and urges that they should at least be brevetted for gallantry under fire, and he particularly praises the conduct of T. J. Kirkpatrick, assistant surgeon, on duty with the Twenty-fourth infantry, and First Lieutenant J. B. Miller, Seventh artillery, aide to General Shafter. The conduct of Brigadier General H. E. Hawkins is also highly commended.

REINFORCEMENTS OFF FOR PORTO RICO

Newport News, Aug. 3.—The first detachment of the Third brigade, First army corps, in command of Brigadier General Fred D. Grant, embarked late tonight on the transport Hudson for Porto Rico, and a 5 o'clock in the morning the Hudson will steam out of Hampton Roads. The troops on board are six companies of the First Kentucky regiment, in command of Colonel Castleman.

Before they went aboard the vessel the soldiers were paid off. It is not known when the other troops will sail, but it is not probable that another transport will leave before Friday. General Grant and his staff will embark on the auxiliary cruiser Yale on Saturday if present program is carried out.

Colonel James Hamilton Lewis arrived here this afternoon from Chickamauga Park. He has been assigned to duty on General Brooke's staff and will embark for Porto Rico with General Grant's expedition.

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 3.—The work on the transports is progressing slowly, and the delay in sending troops to Manila is not due to any particular reason but to the force of circumstances.

The Lakme, Charles Nelson and North Fork will probably be ready to receive troops tomorrow, and the three vessels are expected to sail by Saturday at the latest.

The Tacoma took on board today 500 horses and mules for the artillery and the Manila.

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WHAT IS GOING ON IN HOSPITAL QUARTERS

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—Shafter's daily health report today failed to show any improvement in the health condition of the Fifth army corps, and the matter for congratulation that the war department was able to announce today that it had ordered five cavalry regiments of that corps to be embarked at once for the new camp at Montauk Point, Long Island.

Captain Frederick M. Alger, son of the secretary of war, who has been on duty in the campaign against Santiago, has been ordered home because of disability. Through some accident the captain sustained a severe wound of one of his knees, which will necessitate it being put into a plaster cast for successful treatment.

Brigadier General G. M. Randall, recently promoted from lieutenant colonel of the Eighth infantry, was appointed today to assume command of the new camp to be established at Montauk Point, Long Island, for the benefit of the troops to be

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE REBELS

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—An interesting question, and one of vital importance to the administration, is the attitude to be assumed by the United States toward the Philippine insurgents in the event that we reach an agreement for the suspension of hostilities with Spain. It is stipulated in our peace terms that the United States military forces shall occupy and establish a military form of government over the city of Manila and the bay, with the surrounding territory. This involves an immediate surrender of the Spanish forces, not to Aguinaldo, but to General Merritt, and there is now apprehension that the insurgents will resist this very bitterly and that it will be necessary to exterminate them from the territory described. Beyond this, it is said in some quarters that pending the decision of the peace commissioners as to the future of the Philippines the United States will be morally bound to maintain the status quo in the islands at large. In other words, having deprived them of the means of re-

sisting onslaughts of the insurgents, it has been urged that the United States would be bound to prevent the latter from continuing their warfare.

There is a lack of information in Washington on many important points as to the conditions in the Philippines. For instance, it is not known, even approximately, how extensive the revolutionary movement has been throughout the vast group of 1300 islands and among the population, estimated to aggregate between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000. If the revolutionary movement is general and extends to very many of the islands, the task presented to the United States military and naval authorities will be one of great magnitude in the event that it is decided to be incumbent upon us, not only to restore Spanish sovereignty to where it has been lost, but to prevent its overthrow in sections where it is still supreme, and to prevent excesses and outrages at the hands of the insurgents.

PHILIPPINES FINANCIAL SITUATION TO BE INVESTIGATED

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—Mr. Edward F. Hardin, formerly financial editor of the Chicago Tribune, has been designated by Secretary Day to study and report upon the general financial condition of the Philippines, the banking system, the character of the banking business transacted, the kind of money in circulation, the general condition of exchange, the rates of

interest and kindred subjects. The designation of Mr. Hardin is made at the instance of the treasury department. He is at present in Manila, having gone there on the McCulloch with Admiral Dewey's squadron. He is said to be an accomplished student of finance, and is well known to Secretary Day and Assistant Secretary Vandenberg, the latter

to whom he succeeded as financial editor of the Chicago Tribune. It is believed at the treasury that he will be able to promptly investigate and report upon the special subjects of his mission and furnish much information of value to the government of the United States.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS ON WAR ISSUES

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 3.—The Republican state convention today completed the organization of this state convention late this afternoon and adjourned until tomorrow, when nominations will be made. United States Senator C. W. Fairbanks was made permanent chairman. On assuming the chair he spoke at length of the war, and throughout the country, attributing it to Republican rule. The administration of President McKinley he commended and he

particularly praised the president's course in the conduct of the war in calling in the ranks and placing of leadership much of all parties from all sections of the country. The speaker added:

"The appointed leaders who had fought to destroy the Union, in order that they might indicate their love for the republic and their loyalty to the flag which they

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